

All told, the substitute amendment will mean that the legislation we are about to debate is the product of a half a dozen Senate committees, with input from just about every Member of the Senate. This legislation, I am proud to say, is thoroughly bipartisan, and it shows. When our colleagues will work with us, we want to work together whenever we can.

Now, these policies may sound complicated, but they are propelled by a simple motivation—making sure the United States stays the global economic leader. In the 20th century, American prosperity was anchored in our unmatched capacity for innovation and invention. Researchers at American universities and laboratories fashioned marvels that changed the way we work, the way we communicate, and the way we live. American workers and businesses brought those innovations to a global market, producing the largest middle class in the world and an almost innate optimism about the future.

Here, unfortunately, in the 21st century, America is falling behind. Other countries are investing more in their economies and training their focus on beating the United States to the key technologies of the future. If we don't step up now—now, not 2 years from now—and if we don't step up in a big and bold way, we risk missing out on a generation of good-paying jobs, millions and millions of them. We risk ceding the mantle of global economic leadership to our adversaries. We risk losing the sunny optimism that has defined the American character for generations.

This is an issue where we can unite our country behind the goal of keeping America No. 1 in science and in technology, and this bill puts us a giant step closer to keeping America one step ahead for decades to come.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session. We are now on the motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on the Judiciary being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of the nomination of Kristen M. Clarke, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 193 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Murkowski Stabenow

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the motion to discharge having been agreed to, the nomination will be placed on the Executive Calendar.

The Senator from Washington.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION RELATING TO "UPDATE OF COMMISSION'S CONCILIATION PROCEDURES"—Motion to Proceed

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, right now, Democrats are hard at work building back an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top.

We are committed to fighting for workers. And we have big, bold ideas to do that, like establishing national paid sick, family and medical leave policies; rebuilding our childcare infrastructure; raising the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour; ending the wage gap; and strengthening our Nation's labor laws.

But after 4 years of nonstop attacks on workers' rights, it is also critical that we undo the damage done by the Trump administration. So I am urging my colleagues to join me in voting to overturn a Trump administration rule that imposed strict limits on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's ability to address workplace discrimination.

The EEOC is a critical Agency. It is responsible for holding employers accountable for following workplace discrimination laws. And when they don't, it is one of the few places a worker can go to make sure they get a fair hearing, accountability, and justice. But in January, the Trump administration's Republican Commissioners voted to finalize a rule that tipped the scales in favor of employers in EEOC's process to settle discrimination cases.

That rule gave employers access to information about the worker's case, but not the other way around. It made it easier for employers to demand the identity of victims and witnesses, increasing the risk of retaliation. And it was set to worsen the backlog of cases at the EEOC, forcing workers to wait longer for justice. Put simply, that rule was designed to make it easier for employers to delay or deny justice to workers who have experienced discrimination on the job.

We cannot accept a system that is designed to let employers get away with violating workers' rights. So we absolutely cannot let this rule stand. Let's overturn this rule and restore a fair settlement process for the tens of thousands of workers who file discrimination charges with the EEOC each year.

This is a small but important step in the fight to build a more fair and inclusive economy for all workers, and I believe every one of us who thinks workers deserve to do their jobs free from harassment and discrimination can support this.

Thank you.

Mr. President, I move to proceed to S.J. Res. 13.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 33, S.J. Res. 13, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to "Update of Commission's Conciliation Procedures".

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.